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THE U.S. AND SOVIET POLICY IN ANGOLA

ANNCR: VOA NEWS ANALYST RONALD J. DUNLAVEY DISCUSSES THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ANGOLA SITUATION:

VOICE: THE DEVELOPMENT WHICH ATTRACTED THE MOST ATTENTION CAME LAST FRIDAY IN THE FORM OF AN ARTICLE IN PRAVDA. THE ARTICLE DENIED THAT THE SOVIET UNION WANTED BASES OR SPECIAL RIGHTS IN ANGOLA, AND ADDED: " THE SOVIET UNION COMES OUT FIRMLY FOR THE TERMINATION OF FOREIGN ARMED INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA. THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE SHOULD BE GIVEN THE RIGHT TO DECIDE THEMSELVES THE QUESTIONS OF BUILDING A NEW LIFE IN CONDITIONS OF PEACE AND FREEDOM."

AS SOMEBODY SAID, THAT PARAGRAPH COULD EASILY HAVE BEEN WRITTEN IN WASHINGTON, FOR IT IS A PRETTY FAIR APPROXIMATION OF THE AMERICAN POSITION. THE LATEST STATEMENT ON THAT POSITION CAME FROM PRESIDENT FORD HIMSELF IN A SPEECH DELIVERED MONDAY. SAID MR. FORD: " WE FAVOR AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE, AN END TO ALL OUTSIDE INTERVENTION, AND A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY , PERMITTING THE SOLUTION OF THE ANGOLAN PROBLEM BY THE ANGOLANS THEMSELVES."

SO, ON THE FACE OF IT, THERE WOULD SEEM TO BE AGREEMENT BETWEEN MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF ENDING OUTSIDE INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA. THE QUESTION IS: CAN THE SOVIET STATEMENT BE TAKEN LITERALLY? DOES THIS REALLY MEAN THAT THE RUSSIANS-- AND CUBANS-- ARE READY TO RECONSIDER THEIR POLICY OF MASSIVE ASSISTANCE TO ONE FACTION IN ANGOLA, THE POPULAR MOVEMENT? OR IS MOSCOW MERELY ATTEMPTING TO DEAL WITH THE RISING TIDE OF AFRICAN SUSPICION ABOUT SOVIET MOTIVES, AND TO NEUTRALIZE IN ADVANCE POSSIBLE CRITICISM AT THE AFRICAN SUMMIT MEETING LATER THIS WEEK?

OFFICIAL WASHINGTON IS REACTING CAUTIOUSLY BUT HOPEFULLY. MR. FORD HAS BEEN ASKED WHETHER HE THINKS THE ARTICLE MEANS THAT SOVIET AND CUBAN MILITARY AID TO ANGOLA MIGHT BE ENDED, AND HIS REPLY IS THAT HE CAN'T SAY CATEGORICALLY THAT IS THE SOVIET INTENTION, BUT THAT-- IN HIS WORDS-- " WE ARE MAKING SOME HEADWAY." A HIGH AIDE OF THE PRESIDENT WENT A BIT FURTHER. I THINK WE'RE ENCOURAGED, HE SAID, BECAUSE WE HAVE AT LEAST A PRELIMINARY PUBLIC INDICATION THAT THE SOVIET UNION NOW ENDORSES THE PRINCIPLE THAT ALL FOREIGNERS SHOULD CLEAR OUT OF ANGOLA. BUT, HE ADDED, WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT DEVELOPMENTS OCCUR OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS-- WHETHER THERE'S A SOLID INDICATION THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA WILL NO LONGER BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN ANGOLA.

IT HAS ALSO BEEN CONFIRMED THAT PRESIDENT FORD SENT A MESSAGE TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN STATES, GIVING HIS VIEWS ON HOW BEST TO REACH A SOLUTION OF THE ANGOLA PROBLEM-- AND THAT HE INTENDS TO CONTACT INDIVIDUAL AFRICAN LEADERS IN THE DAYS PRIOR TO THE OAU SUMMIT. FURTHERMORE, THERE ARE PREDICTIONS THAT SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER AND SOVIET AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN WILL BE MEETING IN WASHINGTON THIS WEEK, AND THAT ANGOLA WILL BE ONE OF THE MATTERS THEY WILL DISCUSS. IT MAY BE THAT OUT OF THESE DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES WILL COME NOT ONLY AFRICAN INITIATIVES TO DEAL WITH ANGOLA BUT ALSO A CLARIFICATION OF SOVIET INTENTIONS.

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